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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/417,428	10/13/1999	DANIEL F. LYMAN	1923-48641	7415

7590

08/13/2002

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EXAMINER

CEGIELNIK, URSZULA M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3712

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/417,428

Applicant(s)

LYMAN, DANIEL F.

Examiner

Urszula M Cegielnik

Art Unit

3712

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 May 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis in view of Gentile et al.

Davis discloses an amusement and stress relief device formed of a flexible, resilient polymeric material (rubber) consisting essentially of a center portion (14) with a substantially planar peripheral portion (12) surrounding the center portion (14); the center portion (14) having a concave first lower surface and a convex first upper surface (see attached sheet), the device having two stable equilibrium positions (the two equilibrium positions being stable for a few seconds) wherein a first stable equilibrium position comprises the first lower surface having a concave shape and the first upper surface having a convex shape (see attached sheet) and a second stable equilibrium position comprises the first upper surface now having a concave shape and the first lower surface now having a convex shape (see attached sheet) as recited in claim 1.

Davis discloses the claimed invention except for manual manipulation of the device that inverts the surfaces between the two stable equilibrium positions, wherein the second equilibrium position provides a shape that is substantially the same as the shape of the device in the first equilibrium position and the device will hold the second

equilibrium position until an external force causes it to return to the first equilibrium position as recited in claim 1; the device having dimensions of a particular range as set forth in claims 2-8; the device being made of a particular polymeric material as recited in claims 9 and 16; the surfaces having an illustration or different textures as claimed in claims 10-13; the polymeric material being a colored resin as required by claim 17, and scent being added to the material as recited in claim 14.

Gentile et al. teaches manual manipulation of the device inverts the surfaces between the two stable equilibrium positions (col. 2, lines 42-45, 64-66, and 68 and col. 3, lines 1-6), wherein the second equilibrium position provides a shape that is substantially the same as the shape of the device in the first equilibrium position and the device will hold the second equilibrium position until an external force causes it to return to the first equilibrium position (col. 2, lines 42-45, 64-66, and 68 and col. 3, lines 1-6).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to provide manual manipulation of the device that inverts the surfaces between the two stable equilibrium positions, wherein the second equilibrium position provides a shape that is substantially the same as the shape of the device in the first equilibrium position and the device will hold the second equilibrium position until an external force causes it to return to the first equilibrium position as taught by Gentile et al., since Gentile et al. states at col. 3, lines 5-6 that such a modification would enable the flexible shell to return to its original position.

Furthermore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the device with the dimensions of a

particular range as set forth in claims 2-8, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

Yet still, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the device with the particular polymeric material claimed in claims 9 and 16, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

Moreover, it is an obvious design choice as to what type of dimensions the device has; what type of material the device is made from; the device having an illustration on its surface; a scent added to the material, and the texture of the surface. On the other hand, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of Davis to provide the device in various sizes, textures, colors and scent as claimed for the purpose of making the device more amusing and interesting. It would also have been obvious to modify the Davis device as set forth immediately above, as an obvious choice of design and for aesthetic reasons.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Urszula M. Cegielnik whose telephone number is 703-

Art Unit: 3712

306-5806. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 6:45AM - 3:15PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris H. Banks can be reached on 703-308-1745. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9302 for regular communications and 703-872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to Customer Service at 703-306-5648.

Urszula M. Cegielnik  
Assistant Examiner  
Art Unit 3712

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DAS', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**DERRIS H. BANKS**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700**

April 11, 1939.

J. DAVIS

2,153,957

JUMPING TOY

Filed Feb. 23, 1938

Fig. 1.

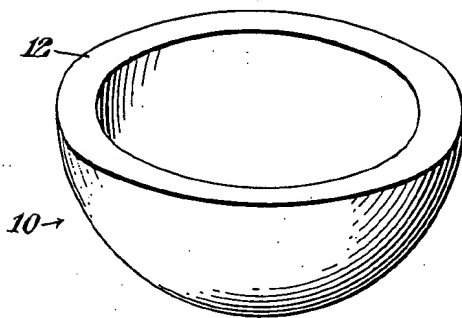


Fig. 2.

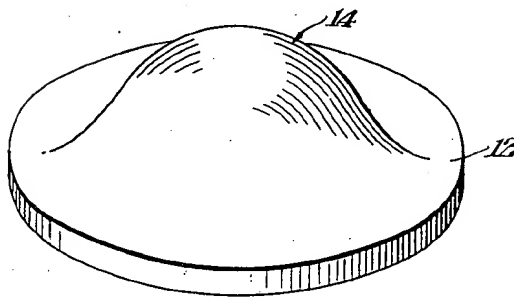
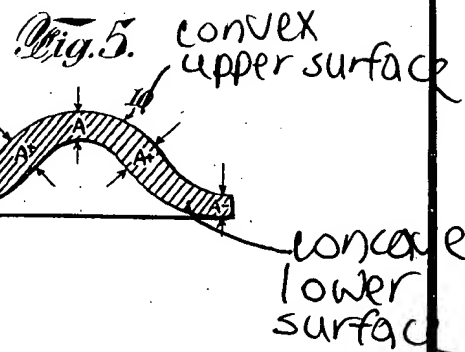
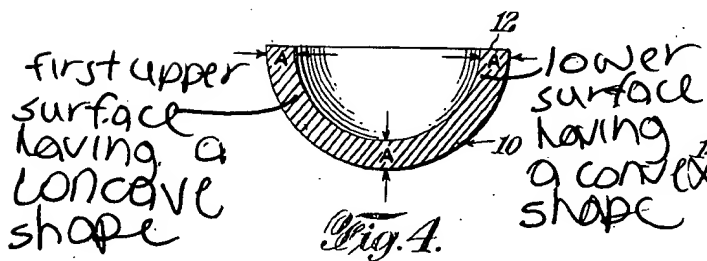
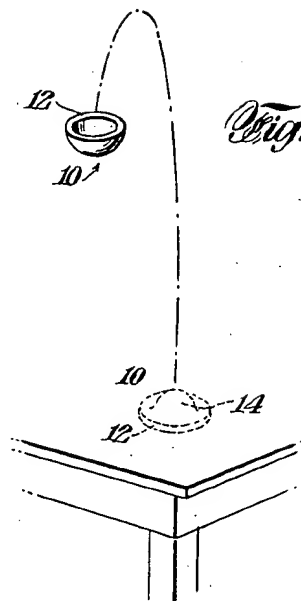


Fig. 3.



INVENTOR  
Jerome Davis  
BY Alan H. Mason  
ATTORNEY